

CELCAT[®] Timetabler 6 Login

Introduction

CELCAT *Timetabler 6* software offers three login methods; *CELCAT Login*, *LDAP Login* and *NT Login*. The CELCAT *Timetabler* Administrator application can be used to specify the method to use for a specified timetable database. *CELCAT Login* is the default setting.

This document describes each login method and provides a flowchart showing how the CELCAT *Timetabler* software processes a login.

Login Methods

CELCAT Login

The software prompts for user name and password and then authenticates against data stored in the timetable database. Note that for your security, the password is stored encrypted and is protected by a challenge-response protocol. This is the default login method.

LDAP Login

Uses the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol to lookup the NT account name of the user in a *Microsoft*[®] Active Directory or other LDAP server.

The *User Authentication* tab of the *Timetabler* Administrator application is used to configure the LDAP search path. Once the NT account name is found in the directory and confirmed to be a member of the CELCAT users group, the user is logged in to the timetable as the CELCAT user whose name matches the NT account name.

For a silent login, the above is all that is required. However there is also support for explicit LDAP login (non-silent) where the user must provide name and password. Where this method is used, the supplied name and password are authenticated by LDAP the name is then matched with a CELCAT user account name.

NT Login

The NT account name of the user is simply matched with the CELCAT user having the same CELCAT 'NT name' attribute and allowed to login without further password matching.

Configuration

The following settings from the *User Authentication* tab in *Timetabler* Administrator are used to control the behaviour of the login process:

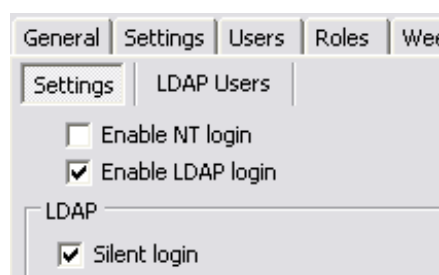


Figure 1: Administrator User Authentication

For the Student Attendance Tracking (SAT) application, the login is successful only if the user is entitled to use SAT (see Administrator *Settings* tab).

For the *Timetabler* Administrator application, the user must have an Admin role available to them. Additionally the Administrator login does not allow the user to select a role (as it must be an Admin role, entitling the user to perform all operations). It does however allow the user to bypass the LDAP login. This might be necessary if the LDAP server is reconfigured or there is a mistake in the settings used.

For a web client, silent LDAP login and NT login are not supported.

The Login Process

The following figure shows a flowchart representing the login process for a normal client.

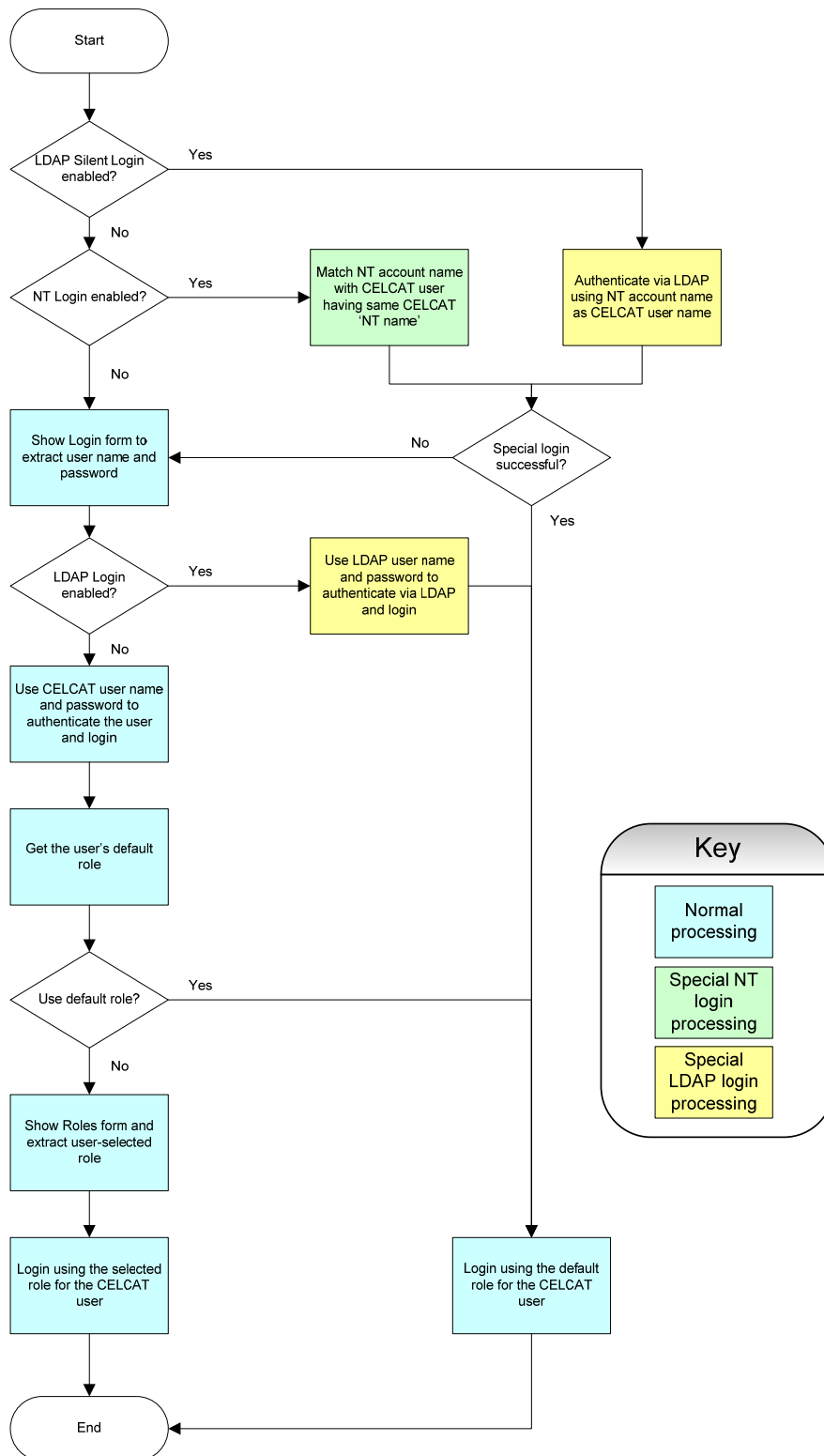


Figure 2: Login Process

Notes on LDAP

In order to use LDAP logins, the LDAP server must be set up to accept bind and search requests from network users. Setting up the LDAP server is beyond the scope of this document.

Data about the LDAP server configuration must be provided in the *User Authentication* tab of *Timetabler* Administrator. Here are the parameters along with a description of their roles within the login process:

Host name:	The network name of the machine on which the LDAP server is hosted.
Port:	If the port is LDAP_SSL_PORT (636) then only SSL (Secure Socket Layer) binds is attempted. If the port is LDAP_PORT (389) then only simple binds are attempted. If the port is any other number, an SSL bind is attempted first, and if this fails with error code 'Authentication Method Not Supported' (but not for other failure reason) then a simple bind is attempted.
Search name DN:	This is the full DN (Distinguished Name) for the LDAP user to be used for making binds in order to search for the required login user. If both this and the password are blank, then an anonymous bind is used for searching. E.g. cn=guest,ou=people,dc=mymachine,dc=com
Password:	The password for the search name DN.
Search DN:	The search area for LDAP user names. E.g. cn=users,dc=mymachine,dc=com
Account attribute:	The attribute name for the NT user account. If the NT user account name is the same as the login name then this could just be cn, otherwise it might be SAMAccountName or other attribute depending on your LDAP server setup.
CELCAT LDAP group:	This is the CN (Common Name) of a group to which the user must belong in order to use CELCAT products. May be left blank.
Search filter:	An LDAP search filter used to search for users. E.g. (objectclass=person).

Technical Support & Installation Services

We are here to help! If you need any assistance during the installation of the *Timetabler* software, or would like us to commission the software for you, please call us on 024 7646 3489 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Alternatively, email our technical support team at tech@celcat.com

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